IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) A calcium-binding protein comprising an amino acid sequence which is substantially identical to the amino acid sequence listed in SEQ ID NO: 1 or 12.

2. (Original) The calcium-binding protein CAAF1 consisting of the amino acid sequence listed in SEQ ID NO: 1 or 12.

3. (Original) A protein or peptide which is a portion of a protein according to Claim 1.

4. (Original) A fused protein comprising a protein or peptide according to Claim 1 and another protein or peptide.

5. (Original) DNA encoding a protein according to Claim 1.

6. (Original) DNA capable of being hybridized with DNA having the nucleotide sequence listed in SEQ ID NO: 1 or 12, and encoding a protein with calcium-binding activity.

7. (Original) A recombinant DNA molecule comprising DNA according to Claim 5 which is linked to a gene regulating factor.

8. (Original) A recombinant DNA molecule according to Claim 7, wherein said gene regulating factor is a prokaryotic promoter system or eukaryotic expression regulator system.

9. (Original) An expression vector comprising a recombinant DNA molecule according to Claim 7.

10. (Original) Recombinant host cells which have been transformed with an expression vector according to Claim 9.

11. (Original) Recombinant host cells according to Claim 10, wherein the host cells are eukaryotic cells or prokaryotic cells.

12. (Original) Recombinant host cells according to Claim 11, wherein the prokaryotic cells are bacterial cells.

13. (Original) Recombinant host cells according to Claim 12, wherein said bacterial cells are of *Escherichia coli*.

14. (Original) Recombinant host cells according to Claim 11, wherein said the eukaryotic cells are of yeast or filamentous fungus.

15. (Original) Recombinant host cells according to Claim 11, wherein said eukaryotic cells are plant cells or animal cells.

16. (Original) A method for producing a calcium-binding protein according to Claim 2, characterized by isolating said protein from bovine amniotic fluid or bovine tissue, or a human tissue.

17. (Original) A method for producing a protein according to claim 1, characterized by culturing host cells transformed with an expression vector comprising DNA encoding said protein, and collecting said protein from the culture.

18. (Currently Amended) An antibody ~~with binding affinity to a protein according to Claim 1~~ raised against a calcium-binding protein comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 or 12.

19. (Original) An antibody according to Claim 18, which is a polyclonal antibody or monoclonal antibody.

20. (Original) A hybridoma which produces a monoclonal antibody according to Claim 19.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a monoclonal antibody ~~with binding affinity to a calcium-binding protein, characterized by culturing a hybridoma producing said monoclonal antibody~~ according to Claim 19, comprising the steps of:

(1) culturing a hybridoma according to claim 20 and

(2) recovering the monoclonal antibody from the culture;

wherein the antibody recognizes a calcium-binding protein comprising an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 19 or 20 (or a calcium-binding protein comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 or 12).

22. (currently amended) A diagnostic agent for inflammatory diseases, neoplastic diseases ~~(especially squamous epithelial carcinoma),~~ dermatosis or blood diseases, which comprises an antibody according to Claim 18.

23.(Original) A calcium-binding protein assay reagent comprising an antibody according to Claim 18.

24. (Original) An assay method for calcium-binding protein, characterized by using a reagent according to Claim 23.